

**Civic Committee Monthly Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 28, 2022**  
**Zoom Meeting only**

**Attendance:** Steve Benigni, Ed Rohrbach, Rick Farrell, Carol Larson, Mark Wood

**Call to Order** Steve Benigni, Civic Chairman, convened the meeting at 7:31 p. m.

**Minutes** - August 24, 2022 Civic Monthly Minutes Approved as presented.

**Categories**

- Administrative
  - Sign Sale fundraiser  
They raised approximately \$1,000 to date selling the old Arden Street signs. The remaining unsold signs are being housed at Steve's who will sell them at the various town events.
  - WILMAPCO Survey  
Steve encourages all to go to Wilmapco website to fill out survey.
- Projects / Grants
  - ORPT (Grant & Resolution) This grant is to help pay for the excavation of the Club House path by removal of root mat, resurfacing and adding a vegetative strip on side that will help in the storm water drainage. The original plan was that Danny Schweers would pay for (150 feet of the 250 feet total) a protective vinyl barrier required by NCC. Danny now thinks it would be better to remove all the bamboo (he would pay for all cost associated with the removal) instead of installing the vinyl barrier. The ORPT grant has been modified to reflect this change and will result in being eligible for a modest reduction of funds. The committee will provide volunteer labor.
  - Harvey Rd. Path Connector  
The future plans are to put a landing that will extend all the way over to the Milky Way path that is ADA compliant and have a fence at the end of the landing (remove yellow ballards) to keep the bicycles from rushing out onto the street. This is not part of the grant request. The grant request is only for 250 feet of paving. Rich Cropper will submit a quote.
  - DNREC SWMPG Storm  
Bev Clendening will be writing a grant.
  - ARPA Status Report  
Community Planning has requested all committees to present an ARPA funds updates in their town assembly report. Steve request that Bev include Civics ARPA update in the Forest report.

- Roads / Paths
  - There was a gas leak at 2309 Woodland in which Delmarva came out and drilled some holes. Delmarva wanted to know the excavation permit process. TBD.
- Trash Tech Services
  - Leaf Pick-up Day
 

The Trash Tech Service contract has a free leaf pick up day in the fall for all three Ardens. For now, that is on hold until they adjust to navigating the Ardens on schedule. The committee wants to make sure that TT is aware that the community is temporarily pausing leaf pick up service till they are up and running per contract.
- Permits / Reservations
  - Jester Artspace (recurring) reserving the Field theater for sketching exercise on a monthly basis in which they are exempt from paying the \$100 fees because it is open to the community. Policy question is it ok to let them continue to use this space as long as they have a connection to the community and community participation? They need to check on availability. A paying event or an Arden group like Shakespeare Gild takes priority. The committee reserve the right to have a two weeks' notice to cancel the exempt fee reservation due to a subsequent pay event or Arden group reservation request.
  - Excavation Permit excavation permit
 

Governance Task Force wants Civic Committee to review the latest version of the official excavation permit and decide if this is the version they want to use or make whatever changes they deem necessary. It is on line under Permits. Steve asks all-committee members to review. The contact information needs to be updated.
- Maintenance Projects
  - Field Theater Staining
 

Thanks to Ed for coming up with specs and oversee the project. The work was performed in one day. The color was good. An invoice was submitted and a check mailed.
  - Bulletin Board Cover
 

The plastic cover is cracked. Someone taped it temporarily. Ken Morrison was contacted to see if he is interested. Warren Rosenkranz might be interested in volunteering. Ed has the specs so he will share them with Warren. If Warren is not interested, Ed will consider doing it.
  - Drain Cleaning
 

All the drains in town need to be check for cleaning and to see if we want to pursue cleaning them.

The drain at Harvey Road and Orleans Rd completely collapsed after DelDot scoped it with a camera and flushed it. As of yet they have not

returned to fix it. There seems to be a disagreement as to whose responsibility it is. Committee thinks it is DelDots responsible for drainage system. There is nothing in the short term for Civic to do.

- Tree

- Field Theater

The Elm tree at the Field Theater has stage lighting mounted on it and the Shakespeare Gild wants those light to remain. Thy are adamant that that they do not want the tree taken down; just top the tree and leave the lights. In a few years the tree will have to come down and the committee believes Shakespeare Gild should pay for its removal because it will almost cost twice as much to cut it 2x. They also believe that the Shakespeare Gild will probably be fine with that. It has already been topped.

- Removed the following trees:

Red maple at Field Theater

Sassafras on Lovers Lane

Ash tree that was leaning across Meadow Lane

- Fels Oak Complaint

Concern about the fungus growing from the mulch that was placed around the Fels Oak. Ed will check it out to see if they are causing any harm. Also, she was concerned about large growing mushroom near the bus stop end of the Sweep. Someone got rid of it.

- Other

- Greens

- Labyrinth & Patro's Path

Mark Wood had been maintaining the labyrinth several times a year by cutting the grass. Thank you! Steve's understanding is that Civic contracted with American Landscape to cut grass around the it, the ball field area and Petro's Path twice a year.

- Other ORPT presentation for this coming town meeting to seek a resolution from the town showing their support for it. Steve and Carol will work this out over the weekend.

- Green aeration

No aeration has been scheduled for the green since the Fair. Ed recommends wait till spring when the ground will be moist and the aeration will penetrate the ground. It is too hard now and it will not go deep. All agree to aerate in the spring.

- Miscellaneous

- One of the things the Civic Committee failed to do the last two years was to have projects queued up and ready to go once they know the total cost of snow removal which would then result in knowing the available funds to be used on legitimate projects before the year end budget is closed out instead of returning the funds. Steve recommends thinking about projects that these funds can be used for.
- In November Rick will review new snow contract.

## **Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Resko  
Village Secretary